

imagined the tone of sarcasm. "It is very evident," if the watchman was to be called on when he said that he saw the plaid suit come out of the house, he must have been equally right in saying that he saw it go in. See?"

He laughed in a tantalizing manner, and Mr. Barnes was annoyed. Mr. Mitchell was startled a little to hear Mr. Barnes using the identical argument advanced by Frederick Jim. Yet Mr. Barnes thought the latter insane, while there was an important point overlooked by himself, though clear to two others.

"You said that you could advance other theories agreeing with your plan of innocence, yet explaining the fact about the suit of clothes," said Mr. Barnes, determined to press this point. "I would like to hear one—one without a flaw this time."

"Nothing easier. Let us suppose that the murderer stole the suit before committing his crime. Instead of afterward, and there you are. The watchman's story is true, and yet I am not in it, to use a phrase—nor in the suit, I mean. What do you say to that?"

"I asked you for a theory without a flaw," replied Mr. Barnes.

"And where is the flaw in this?"

"If your clothing had been stolen, you would have complained of the loss," said the detective.

"Not if the theft occurred on the night of the murder and was therefore unknown to me at the time."

"Not good enough, Mr. Barnes. Some one else had to have taken the suit, and the murderer, if indeed there were two, must have done so before going in wearing your suit."

"You are very shrewd, Mr. Detective, but you are not omniscient. Nor argue from the premise that the suit was in the house, whereas, as a matter of fact, it was not."

"Where, then, was it?"

"At some point I have down in Essex street."

"The identity of this point made Mr. Barnes start to his feet, while Mr. Mitchell, admiring the readiness of the move, listened with restrained interest."

"Then you admit that you have another home?" ejaculated the detective.

"Why not, since you know it?"

"Ah, then you also confess that you call yourself Morton there and that you have a wife, who?"

"Not so fast, Mr. Barnes. I am not confessing any such nonsense. I had a room there because I found it convenient in my shuffling trips to sleep down town occasionally, also to have a place where I could change my clothing to less expensive apparel than I usually wear. I am sure that it is safe enough to say that there is a Mrs. Morton in the same house. I will so far further and tell you that I know the lady very well and that it was she who recommended the room to me. When I engaged the place, I gave the name Morton, desiring, first, to hide my own identity, and, secondly, to account for my friendliness with the young woman."

"But no one in that house will tell you that I posed as the woman's husband. They believed me to be her brother-in-law, her husband is away somewhere."

"Then there is nothing between you and this woman?"

"Nothing but friendship. She often obtained entrance for me into places where I could study the life of that section, but which would have been impracticable to any one not known. She was useful to me in that way, and I have the kindest feelings for her. If you find anything suspicious about the most of it."

Mr. Barnes began to think that he had made a mistake in mentioning the name Morton. Mr. Mitchell knew it. This explanation, however, improbable, was one that it would be difficult to improve, especially as Mrs. Morton could readily wear his associates in the house and coach them to support his story. Mr. Barnes, however, did not entirely despair.

"Then it was from this house that you now think that your clothes were stolen?"

"I do not think so. I assure it."

"At last we get to something tangible. The suit was stolen from the house in Essex street. The murderer was it to your home and after killing your father came out again in the same garb. So much we know. Now, what did he do with these blood-stained garments?"

"Ah, that is for the great detective, Mr. Barnes, to discover."

"My own idea would be that he would not destroy them," said the detective, appearing not to notice the other's sneering tones. "Shall I tell you why?"

"By all means."

"Because his wearing them at all must have been a part of his scheme."

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taken about as he saw his supposedly strong evidence against this man about to be swept aside. "You say that you threw the suit into the river?"

"Do you not think? Did you not see me—you say?"

"The last words came forth with a hissing sound, and the young man assumed a threatening attitude, which tempted Mr. Mitchell to speak for the first time."

"Come! No violence!" he exclaimed, rising quickly and grasping Mr. Barnes' arm. The younger man wrenched himself loose by a quick movement and turned to confront Mr. Mitchell.

"And who are you?" he cried. "You have been sitting in silence while this thief takes his time in trying to twist something out of my mouth which he could use to place a new and my neck. A new business you both are in?"

"You do not know me, Mr. Morton, or you would not speak so harshly. In my conversations with Mr. Barnes I have argued that you are innocent."

"I presume you expect me to be grateful to you for that. Well, I am not. I am not guilty, and I defy all such detectives as this Mr. Barnes here."

"You may defy me as much as you like," said Mr. Barnes hotly, exasperated by the contemptuous words which had been used. "But you have admitted that since the murder you had the plaid suit in your possession and that you attempted to dispose of it. That you will find very difficult to explain."

"I should never hope that any explanation of mine would be of any use to you. I should like to see Mr. Mitchell and I would not attempt it except that perhaps your friend here is more reasonable than yourself and might persuade you of the stupidity of having me arrested, which, I presume, is the next step which you contemplate."

"No other course would be open to me unless you can account for your very suspicious action," replied Mr. Barnes.

"All things are suspicious to those who suspect," said Morton. Then, turning to Mr. Mitchell, he continued: "This man admits that if the murderer wore my clothing it was because he wished me to be suspected. Very well. Upon my release yesterday I listened to the Essex street house, because I had no idea which was quickly confirmed. The man from my clothes, and after killing my father he returned home to the room from which he had taken them. Imagine my position if my connection with the house had been known and the clothes found in my closet, with the blood on them. On finding them I was terrified, and I lost my head. I made the great mistake of hurrying with them to the river. I was sure that I should have acted otherwise."

"What should you have done?" asked Mr. Mitchell.

"I should have gone to the police station and told the truth. The truth will always prevail, only in this instance."

He hesitated, seemed confused and stopped, leaving the sentence incomplete.

"Only in this instance the truth was so improbable that the police might have misconstrued your action into a bold game of bluff," said Mr. Mitchell, finishing for him. "Is that your idea?"

"Yes, well let it go at that."

He looked at Mr. Mitchell keenly for a few moments, then suddenly added: "I wish you gentlemen a very good morning," and hurried from the apartment.

Mr. Mitchell waited for Mr. Barnes to speak first, and very soon the detective asked:

"Well, Mr. Mitchell, what do you think?"

"I think I could have finished that young man's confession exactly as he had framed it mentally. I think I could supply the words which he suppressed. I think your case is getting to be intensely interesting. And I think that I will take a walk—alone if you will excuse me."

TO BE CONTINUED.

OUTWITTING ROTHSCHILD.

The Scheme a Shrewd Dealer Worked on the Astute Banker.

An amusing story, told in the "Memories of an Old Collector" makes clear the tricks in trade to which an unscrupulous dealer in antiquities will resort in order to get a large sum for his wares.

The two parties were Alessandro Castellani, the clever dealer, and Baron Adolph Rothschild of Paris.

Castellani had managed to get hold of a superb diamond earring, together with the dish on which it stood. He knew that Baron Adolph had a fancy for objects of this kind, but he also knew that no Rothschild was ever so carried away by his fancy as to pay more than a reasonable price for anything that pleased him. Castellani, who in trade was what Machiavelli was in politics, devised a bit of strategy.

The Baron, on arriving in Rome, visited Castellani's shop and was shown the best things the dealer had, except the emerald dish and earring. When everything else had been inspected, Castellani drew from a hidden cupboard the dish, but not the earring. The Baron was so pleased with the dish that he agreed to buy the lot of which it was a part, for one of the custom of the shop was not to sell a rare specimen apart from the group of which it formed the principal object. The Baron paid heavily for the whole, lamenting that there was no earring to stand on the dish, and departed for Florence.

There he was visited by an agent who told him of an old lady who wished to sell several beautiful jewelry pieces. He visited her house in the country and was disappointed, as the majolica lady, seemingly charmed, left the room to order refreshments, and the Baron saw through the open door of a bedroom a ewer covered by a glass shade on which rested a wreath of immortelles.

When the lady returned, the Baron asked permission to examine the ewer. It was brought out, and the Baron saw that the enamel work of the same work as that of the dish he had bought, but he wished to be certain that the foot of the ewer fitted into the hollow of the dish. He inquired the price of the ewer and was told by the lady that it was not for sale, as it was the only souvenir she possessed of her husband.

The Baron went back to his room, had the dish unpacked and found that the foot of the ewer fitted it perfectly. The next day the Baron sent the agent to offer the old lady, privately sum for the ewer. He brought back a refusal to sell. But the Baron's persistence was overcome.

Castellani, with his Italian cunning, had planned the whole affair. The agent who called and the old lady who was so persistent in her refusal to sell, were both paid a much larger sum than the ewer had given her over and dish been sold together. The Italian banker's scheme had taken in the Jewish dealer, and the most astute of business men.

PEOPLE OF BORNEO.

WHAT THEY ARE TODAY UNDER THE RULE OF AN ENGLISHMAN.

A Fresh Account of the Race From Which the Museum's "Wild Men" Were Taken to Come—How They Dress, Court, Marry and Do Other Things.

An anthropological study in a thousand pages is an achievement which "German thoroughness" might envy, and there can be no question that in "The Natives of Sarawak and British North Borneo" Mr. Henry Ling Roth has produced a work of similar value. The modern history of Sarawak is in itself a romance, the country being one of the now necessarily very rare instances of a kingdom carved out of rule of law, determination and genius for rule of law. The modern history of Sarawak is in itself a romance, the country being one of the now necessarily very rare instances of a kingdom carved out of rule of law, determination and genius for rule of law.

The most interesting corner of the Malay archipelago. Before the arrival on the scene of the young Englishman who afterwards became Rajah Brooke, the Drakewas the people of all the natives, slaveholders and freebooters who, until very recent times, infested Malayan waters.

No sooner had young Mr. Brooke converted himself into an absolute monarch by slaying the last of the northwestern portion of the island of Borneo which we know as Sarawak than the harassed natives began to breathe more freely. The pirates were kept at a respectful distance, and the people of all the natives, slaveholders and freebooters who, until very recent times, infested Malayan waters.

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